

Miscellaneous Cabinet.

NON QUO, SED QUOMODO.

VOL. I.] SCHENECTADY, SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 1823. [NO. 8.]

FEMALE EDUCATION.

Towards our fair readers we cannot, perhaps, for the present, better discharge our duty, than by copying a series of numbers on Female Education, from "The New-York Mirror and Ladies' Literary Gazette." They are said to be in a course of translation from the French of Mad. Antoinette Legroing La Maissonneuve, and furnished for that paper, by a lady of literary taste and scientific endowments, who is, and has been for several years, the principal of one of the most respectable female seminaries in New-York.

ARTICLE I.

What is it that Society demands of Woman.

Education may very properly be compared to the operation of grafting fruit trees. The graft renders sweet and savoury, that fruit which would have received from nature nothing but asperity and bitterness: But the trees on which we produce excellent pears, can never, with all our care, be made to bear peaches or cherries; neither can all children arrive to the same kind, nor the same degree of perfection. The proper business of education, therefore, is to excite in the mind, not that which nature has denied to it, but all the gifts she has bestowed.

The whole mystery of tuition, then, consists in observing the natural aptitude and disposition of the mind, and directing it in its proper course. Every being on the face of the earth, has a certain career allotted to it, a destiny to fill, and every child has in its own bosom, something which may be called the *vocation of nature*, which it is the business of education to elicit, perfect and correct. Nature will not be turned out of her course with impunity, therefore it is important that she should not be misapprehended, for

"Chassez le naturel, il revient au galop."

La Fontaine.

But on the other hand, we should avoid the opposite extreme. If we had nothing to do, but to direct a child in the path which nature has pointed out, and make it advance as near as possible to perfection in the line which she has traced, education would be comparatively easy. But *society* as well as nature asserts her claim. The child, O parent, which you are called upon to prepare for future usefulness, is cast into a *certain sphere*, and in that sphere, most probably it will continue to circulate during life. Here then our duty becomes more complex, inasmuch as it is necessary to reconcile all that which nature claims, with what society and adventitious circumstances demand.

Society, which requires of men, each according to what he has received, the various

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gifts which nature has distributed, seems to demand of *woman*, a tribute nearly uniform. It is hers to be the comfort and ornament of the *domestic* habitation, to render herself beloved and useful, and scatter here and there the flowers of life under the feet or those who surround her. It is hers to cheer, to bless, and to console; to brighten the hours of joy—sweeten the draught of pleasure, and aid in drinking the bitter cup of pain. To her, the avenues of power and grandeur are shut, but she can establish an empire of affection and confidence, of which she may be herself the centre; and enthroned in the hearts of those to whom her virtues have endeared her, it is hers to dispense those inestimable gifts which increase the happiness and diminish the pains of life.

Cast often by his duty into a tempest of cares and business, *man* is assailed by the passions of his nature, which find, unhappily, a thousand ways to deprave him. Trained, from his infancy, to the bustle and activity of business, he is drawn into a whirlpool of schemes, projects, and speculations; of hopes which are destroyed and renewed without cessation; and he precipitates himself rather than advances towards the termination of his career, and attains, without perceiving it, the passage to a more permanent state. He consumes his life in anxiety, he calculates its years with sorrow, and demands with bitterness, "*What then is the space which should separate childhood from dotage?*"

Devoted to occupations more peaceful, more sweet, more uniform, *woman* can tranquilly number her days, and signalize them by a thousand acts of virtue. In truth, her virtues must be exercised in the shade and in silence. Fame will not speak of them; nor will posterity regard them, but hope cherishes their remembrance for the great day of reward. Does she not resemble those flowers whose hues are brighter, by the aid of a favourable obscurity, than when they are exposed to the rays of a burning sun? The hope of finding a diamond may induce a man often to grovel in the dirt; but a woman can preserve unsullied the border of her garments.

Finally, to love all that is worthy, useful, good and virtuous; and to fly all that is opposed to it: *this is what society demands of woman.*

DESULTORY.

From the Albany Daily Advertiser.

Wilson's Globe Factory.—We most cheerfully embrace this early opportunity of calling

then walks off with an air of triumph, great as

public attention to this valuable establishment. With a highly commendable zeal, these native and self taught artizans, have persevered in their undertaking, till they have at length brought their business to such perfection, that we can say, without fear of contradiction, they can turn out globes, in all respects *equal*, and in some points *superior*, to any that are manufactured abroad, and brought into this market. It is with pleasure that we learn, an eminent bookseller in Philadelphia, has come to the determination not to import any more from abroad, having given a decided preference to those made by the WILSONS. As this is the only establishment of the kind in America, one would suppose that the proprietors would meet with ample encouragement; yet we regret to learn that the *mania* for importation has hitherto kept them in the back ground, so far, at least, as to prevent their realizing that progress in wealth which ought ever to attend industry and frugality. For the honour of our country, we hope that this is in consequence of its not being generally known that such articles may be obtained at *home*, at a cheaper rate than they can be afforded from foreign countries.

The Messrs. Wilsons have lately been at great expense in engraving a new plate of 13 inches diameter, in which the American geographical lines of division, are correctly delineated; which of itself gives their globes a decided advantage over those of foreign production. We trust it is needless to say more to our countrymen, to induce them to countenance that kind of domestic undertaking, which affords us articles of a superior excellence, especially as they can be had at a cheaper rate than those of the same kind which are imported. To conclude, we hope editors throughout the Union, will, with their characteristic promptness, notice this subject, for it is one intimately connected with the progress of literature, on the prevalence of which, the basis of our republican institutions are founded.

SLAVERY.

The National Intelligencer contains the following advertisement:

Runaway Negro for sale.—Will be sold, at the gaol in Washington county, in the District of Columbia, on Tuesday the 24th inst for his gaol fees and other expenses, a negro man by the name of John Blackston; who says he was set free by Com. Barney. Terms of sale, cash.

C. Trippet, for Teach Ringgold, Marshal of the District of Columbia.

This negro man has been imprisoned on suspicion of his being a 'runaway'; and in the capital of the United States, "the land of Liberty," is to be sold "for his gaol fees and other expenses." The laws of our country consider traffic in slaves on the African coast as an offence to be visited with all the punishments due to piracy, and we rejoice that such are

our statutes on that point. But why stop here? Why permit kidnapping under the forms of law, and then confirm the bondage by selling the unhappy victim to pay what are called the *legal expenses*?

That in slave holding states severe measures are taken to prevent the escape of slaves from their masters we are not surprised. The love of money, and perhaps the duty of self-preservation, induce them to pass laws which nothing but the most imperious necessity can justify. Indeed, one portion of their statutes, and perhaps others, cannot be justified. In the case before us, for instance, a man is apprehended on suspicion of being a slave. The burden of proof does not rest upon the prosecutor, or if it does rest upon him, and he is unable to prove the person who has been apprehended, to be a slave, still this person must be sold into slavery, to pay the expenses of a prosecution unjustly established against him.—Such, from the advertisement before us, appear to be the regulations adopted in the District of Columbia.

When states, by their representatives, pass laws which bear hard upon the coloured population, no remedy can be found. These states would not brook the interference of Congress, and the African can look for protection to God alone. But we do believe that the authorities of the District of Columbia, will not, for any length of time, be permitted to imitate the oppressive acts of the Legislatures referred to. That district receives its laws from the Congress of the United States; and the American people, or the Congress which represents them, will not deliberately say that a man can be apprehended in the capital of a nation, be sent to a gaol, be loaded with irons, and finally sold to the highest bidder, merely "because his skin is of a different colour from that of his neighbour."

Religious Intelligencer.

FROM THE LINCOLN INTELLIGENCER.

Extract of a letter dated Brown county, Ohio, 1819.

"I lately saw a letter from Kennebeck, written by a young man to his friend, in which he desires to know what encouragement he might expect as teacher of an *English school*, should he come to Ohio. I have known several young men of good education and promising abilities, from the Eastern states, that have been sadly disappointed by having expectations raised which could not be realized. When a young man comes to our state and wishes to teach a school, he inquires for the *Agent of the District*. The people stare at him, and wonder what he means. *Agent* and *district* sound as oddly in their ears as *Lord high Almoner* would in Hallowel. They look upon him as some kind of a ninnyhammer or Gothamite; and I never heard of such

an animal as a School Agent, they venture to tell him there is none. After a few interrogatories, he finds that the business of hiring a schoolmaster belongs to every body, and the "Prompter" taught him long ago, that every body and no body are synonymous. He finds that he has to write articles of agreement, and traverse the country through hog-paths, cow-paths, mill-paths and no-paths, to find where every body lives, and see who will sign and for how many scholars—and generally finds it a more vexatious job to beg a school than to teach one a month. I call it begging, because there are so many who need so much coaxing, and look upon it as so much given or thrown away. I have seen some turn pale about the mouth like a child afflicted with the worms. One will sign if the master will take corn or potatoes, or any thing that he cannot conveniently carry to market; another has a good crop of flax on the ground, and wants to pay in tow cloth when the flax is pulled, rotted, broke, swingled, spun and wove; one insisted that the master should take bees-wax, though he had not as much as would wax a needle full of thread—but he was going to devote a whole month to hunt bees, and bright hopes beamed warmly on his fluttering breast. The Master, like the man who bought the bear skin before the bear was caught, agreed to take \$7 worth, but never got an ounce. Some persons, with good farms, and in thriving circumstances, will tell such lamentable tales about their children's education, as might lead you to suppose yourself in a poor house among a parcel of paupers. This conversation is generally topped off with a detail of how many they intend to send next year; when they expect fortune will smile more propitiously upon them. From the foregoing and most of the subsequent remarks, duty requires me to except that sect of people called Presbyterians, though I do not belong to them; they are generally ready to employ, willing to pay, and love to have their children kept under subordination. I will now return to my poor yankee schoolmaster, whom I left a stranger in a strange land, with but little of the *sine qua non* in his pocket, and no friends. He is this moment thinking of an old adage, "while grass grows the horse starves"—yes, next year the man hopes to send to school, but what is Jonathan to do in the interim. "O that I were back again to the land of lumberers, among the Kennebeck herrings, pumpkin pies and baked beans!"

But suppose him successful in obtaining employment:—then he has not got over the threshold of his difficulties. His employers expect him to keep a *gabbling school*, in which every scholar makes as much noise as he can, and our yankee finds his ears to be a

couple of useless things; and he invokes every unseen power to smite him with a temporary deafness or his scholars with dumbness. I think a certain *John O'Dee and one Patrick O'Flannaghan* kept these kind of schools in the Irish settlements about *Boothbay* and *Sheepscot* some thirty years ago, when I lived in your country.

There is a hoary headed sage not far from me, who has taught school in a number of places, and for a number of years; his method is as follows. He sits in state, in the midst of his scholars, with a something in his hand which he calls a wattle—when the noise seems to die away, he smites the floor with his wattle, with as much authority as Moses did the rock, and cries with a voice as loud as the priests of Baal, 'Mind your bucks,' and the noise immediately gushes out, like the breaking forth of mighty waters. An old Dutchman went with me one day to the school house when the hounds were in full cry—he stood at the door for some minutes, as if he had been petrified, until the pedagogue demanded silence, and then cried out—"—plesh mine soul, I shouds gone out of my head." This Master of Monosyllables is counted as great in our neighbourhood as Dr. Gamaliel was among the Jews. It is useless to say that a good reader never came out of his school.—But this is not all; our yankee soon perceives that the larger scholars do not come with any view of being taught, but to get rid of their work at home, and teach the Master the random shot, sing song, hum and haw, grunting mode of reading, which they have acquired in their gabbling schools; for you must know that by this time the yankee's mode of reading has been condemned by half the gad-about gossips in the neighbourhood. Charlotte Clickclack, Betsey Babbly, Goody Twist, and the old Widow Whittle, have all condemned him. Why, says Betty, I heard him read a sermon at society meeting last Sunday, and he read it just as if he had been speaking or preaching it himself: Lord, it did me no good at all—now wen the Caleb Catchpenny reads he sings it through his nose; it has some music in it. Aye, aye, says the widow, Tom Thumb is going [to school] next week, he'll let him see how the bear ate the cabbage: Tom can dash along like a rabbit through the bush, he'll never mind their nonsensical stops, and faith he's right, they are good for nothing but to plague a body. Next week comes, and along comes Tom—bolts into the school-house—takes no notice of the master—saunters about, whistling Paddy Whack with his hat on—he draws from his pocket a precious relict of Thomas Dilworth, and dashes away—he calls some—skips some, and murders the whole—then winks off with an air of triumph, great as

a winner at a boxing match, or an oyster wench at a petticoat race. The next time Tom reads, the Master stops him, shews him where he reads wrong, and where he turns it into foolishness by mixing sentences together. Tom gets confused and angry. In apparent distress he cries out—"Why I went three years to old Shackfigure, and he never said any thing about stops; I don't believe they are of any account; he said I could read well enough to learn Arith mat-ick. Our yankee pronounced Mr. Shackfigure an Ignoramus; Tom understands it *Merino Ram's nest*, and the whole neighbourhood are at their wit's ends to find out the meaning of *Merino Ram's nest*, but all conclude it to be something bad.

These are a few, but a very few of the difficulties to which I shall just add the custom of barring out, carrying out, or driving out the master at Christmas, and ducking him in the water holes, &c. till he agrees to find liquor enough to make them all drunk; but this last I shall, perhaps, make the subject of another letter.

Wm. O'BOWLER."

Science, Arts, &c.

From the Boston Journal of Philosophy and the Arts.

Account of a man who lived ten years after having swallowed a number of Clasp Knives; with a description of the appearances of the Body after death. Drawn up from papers published in the Medico Chirurgical Transactions: by Alexander Marcet, M. D. F. R. S. &c. late Physician to Guy's Hospital. [J. W.]

The following extraordinary case is well worthy of being recorded, both from the singular nature of the facts themselves, and as affording a most striking illustration of the self-preserving powers of the stomach and intestines, and their ability to resist the influence of foreign agents. Although the circumstances occurred many years since, yet it is only within the last year, (1822,) that they have been collected and presented to the public in an authentic form.

In the month of June, 1799, John Cummings, an American sailor, about twenty-three years of age, being with his ship on the coast of France, and having gone on shore with some of his shipmates, about two miles from the town of Havre de Grace, he and his party directed their course towards a tent which they saw in a field, with a crowd of people round it. Being told that a play was acting there, they entered, and found in the tent a mountebank, who was entertaining the audience, by pretending to swallow clasp knives. Having returned on board, and one of the party having related to the ship's company, the story of the knives, Cummings, after drinking freely, boasted that

man. He was taken at his word, and challenged to do it. Thus pressed, and though, (as he candidly acknowledges in a narrative of his case, drawn up by himself,) "not particularly anxious to take the job in hand, he did not like to go against his word, and having a good supply of grog inwardly," he took his own pocket knife, and on trying to swallow it, it slipped down his throat with great ease, and by the assistance of some drink, and the weight of the knife, it was conveyed into his stomach. The spectators, however, were not satisfied, with one experiment, and asked the operator "whether he could swallow more?" his answer was, "all the knives on board the ship;" upon which three knives were immediately produced, which were swallowed in the same way as the former; "and by this bold attempt of a drunken man," to use his own expressions "the company was well entertained for that night." The next morning he had a motion which presented nothing extraordinary; and in the afternoon he had another, with which he passed one knife, which, however, was not the one he had swallowed first. The next day he passed two knives at once, one of which was the first, which he had missed the day before. The fourth never came away, to his knowledge, and he never felt any inconvenience from it. After this great performance he thought no more of swallowing knives for the space of six years.

In the month of March, 1805, being then at Boston in America, he was one day tempted, while drinking with a party of sailors, to boast of his former exploits, adding that he was the same man still, and ready to repeat his performance; upon which a small knife was produced, which he instantly swallowed. In the course of that evening he swallowed five more. The next morning crowds of visitors came to see him; and in the course of that day he was induced to swallow eight knives more, making in all fourteen.

This time, however, he paid dearly for his frolic; for he was seized the next morning with constant vomiting, and pain at his stomach, which made it necessary to carry him to Charlestown hospital, where, as he expresses it, "betwixt that period and the 28th of the following month, he was safely delivered of his cargo."

The next day he sailed for France, on board a brig, from which he parted there, and embarked on board another vessel to return to America. But on his passage, the vessel was taken by the British ship *Isis*, of fifty guns, and sent to St. Johns, Newfoundland, where she was condemned; while he himself was pressed, and sent to England, on board the *Isis*.—One day, while at Spithead, where the ship lay some time, having got drunk, and, as v
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was once more challenged to repeat the experiment, and again complied, "disdaining," as he says, "to be worse than his word." This took place on the 4th of December, 1805, and in the course of that night, he swallowed five knives. On the next morning, the ship's company having expressed a great desire to see him repeat the performance he complied with his usual readiness, and "by the encouragement of the people, and the assistance of good grog," he swallowed that day, as he distinctly recollects, nine clasp knives, some of which were very large; and he was afterwards assured, by the spectators, that he had swallowed four more, which, however, he declares he knew nothing about; being, no doubt, at this period of the business, too much intoxicated to have any recollection of what was passing. This, however, is the last performance we have to record; it made a total of at least thirty-five knives, swallowed at different times; and we shall see that it was this last attempt which ultimately put an end to his existence.

The next day he was seized with serious symptoms of derangement, and applied to the surgeon of his ship, Dr. Lara, for medical advice. He complained of excessive pain in the stomach and bowels, incapacity of retaining any thing on the stomach, and severe pain in walking or standing erect. These continued for some time, and were but little alleviated by the means made use of for that purpose. Little in fact could be done, under circumstances so remarkable, with any prospect of relief, and the case was left, in a great measure, to the efforts of nature. A little castor oil was occasionally given to promote the expulsion of the knives downward, and opium administered to diminish the pain and vomiting, which immediately occurred upon sitting up, or swallowing any thing solid. The evacuations from the intestinal canal became dark and inky. His appetite continued pretty good, but he became emaciated, though his pulse remained of the natural standard.

A general disbelief prevailed, notwithstanding these appearances, as to the cause to which Cummings attributed his complaint, particularly as some of those who had declared that they had seen him swallow the knives, prevaricated in their evidence on being repeatedly examined. He was directed, on account of this suspicion, to sit up the whole of the day. For a few days he always vomited on rising, but within a week he lost that symptom, and seldom vomited, except after drinking some liquid, and then it had the appearance of ink and water. He had taken sulphuric acid and the muriated tincture of iron without benefit, and at this time the use of medicine was suspended. For three or four months there was little alteration; yet he seemed to gain in some respects, for although

he was able to move about, and at intervals performed the duty of a sweeper on board the ship. On the 26th of April, 1806, nearly five months from the date of his swallowing the knives, he had a return of the vomiting and pain, which severely afflicted him for a few weeks, but from which he gradually amended, and was discharged to the performance of such light duties as he could execute.

For several months nothing particular occurred. He gathered strength and flesh, ate voraciously, drank proportionably, and performed some duty, though suffering from pain whenever he stood erect, and vomiting at intervals. On the 6th of June, he brought up by vomiting, part of the horn handle of a knife, which occasioned him no considerable effort or pain in its expulsion. On the 8th of Nov. he passed the blade and half the horn handle of a knife with much pain. In the course of a few succeeding months, he evacuated from the bowels several other portions of knives, some of them with excruciating pain, and accompanied, on one occasion, with hemorrhage from the stomach, to the amount of two pounds of blood.

In June, 1807, he was discharged from his ship, and immediately became a patient in Guy's hospital, under the care of Dr. Babington. He was discharged, after a few days, his story appearing altogether incredible; but was readmitted by the same physician, in the month of August, his health during this period having evidently become much worse. In the latter end of October, however, he was again discharged in an improved state; and he did not appear again at the hospital until the next September. He now became a patient of Dr. Curry, under whose care he remained, gradually and miserably sinking under his sufferings, till March, 1809, when he died in a state of extreme emaciation, three years and three months from the commencement of his difficulty. On his first admission into the hospital, his statement was entirely disbelieved; he was considered as a hypochondriac, probably labouring under some chronic affection of the stomach and liver, and was treated accordingly. Subsequently, however, the consistency of his story, and various symptoms attending his case, convinced his medical attendants that there was some probability in his representation. With a view to dissolve the bodies present in the stomach and alimentary canal, or at least in hopes of rendering their edges blunt, dilute acids, first the nitric, and afterwards the sulphuric, combined with opium and mucilage, were prescribed. Various other palliatives were also occasionally administered; and that these were attended with some temporary benefit, may be inferred from the long period during which the patient's life was preserved, notwithstanding the utterly

On opening the body after death, various interesting appearances presented themselves. Throughout the cavity of the abdomen, a blackish ferruginous tinge prevailed, which was also observable in the hepatic system. On examining the intestines, one of the blades, and one of the back springs were actually found in them, both so situated that their expulsion from the body was obviously impossible. The latter of these, about 4 1-4 inches long, had literally transfixed the colon opposite the left kidney, and projected into the cavity of the abdomen; while another was found stretching across the rectum, with one of its extremities actually fixed in the muscular parietes of the pelvis. It was observed, that, although the knives had thus perforated the intestines, none of their contents had escaped into the cavity of the abdomen, and that no active inflammation had taken place; in consequence, no doubt, of the perforation having been gradual, and of a slow and simultaneous process of ulceration having taken place from within, which had enabled the parts to adapt themselves so closely around the protruding instrument, as effectually to prevent any communication between the wounded intestine and the general cavity of the abdomen.

The stomach, viewed externally, bore evident marks of altered structure. Upon being opened, a great many portions of blades, knife-springs, and handles, were found in it, and deposited in the anatomical museum of Guy's hospital. These fragments were between thirty and forty in number; thirteen or fourteen of them being evidently the remains of blades; some of which were remarkably corroded, and much reduced in size, whilst others were comparatively in a state of tolerable preservation. That which had undergone the least alteration, being a blade made of cast steel.

The œsophagus at its lower part, and the upper orifice of the stomach, were thicker than natural. The left extremity of the stomach where the spleen adheres to it, had its usual texture; but the right was exceedingly thickened. The rugæ, in the mucous membrane, were unusually prominent; and there were granulated projections from the edges of the rugæ. This membrane was coloured by the steel. The pylorus was natural, but the duodenum had a greater thickness than usual.

From a comparison of these particulars with the history of the case, it would appear that so long as the stomach was not injured in its action and texture, the passage of the knives was, in most instances, attended with no, or very little inconvenience. But from the frequent repetition of these experiments, together with the man's habits of intemperance, the stomach had lost the power of transmitting to the intestines, those bulky

organ, where they produced the distressing symptoms of indigestion and pain which have been described; and the circumstance of the knives not wounding the intestines till the latter period, was probably owing to a similar cause, namely, that when the stomach was able to expel them quickly, they passed through the intestines inclosed within their handles, and therefore comparatively harmless; while at a later period, the knives were detained in the stomach till the handles, which were mostly of horn, had been dissolved, or at least too much reduced to afford any protection against the metallic part.

An opportunity was afforded by this dissection, of noticing a chemical fact, which shows the power possessed by iron, of impregnating the biliary secretions. The contents of the gall bladder partook of the black tinge of the other abdominal viscera, and some of the bile was collected and examined by Dr. Marcet, for the purpose of determining the presence of iron as a constituent, and its proportion. About 150 grains of this bile, which was perfectly black, and possessed the usual alkaline properties, being subjected to evaporation, and the dry mass burnt in a platina crucible, with a little wax, the incinerated residue weighed nearly five grains; and on presenting a magnet, ferruginous particles were immediately attracted by it. This residue being treated with muriatic acid and prussiate of potass, the quantity of prussian blue formed, amounted to half a grain. This quantity was found to be more than double that contained in bile under ordinary circumstances; 150 grains of which, treated in a similar manner, yielded at most, one fifth of a grain of prussian blue. This susceptibility of the bile of receiving a ferruginous impregnation, appears the more remarkable, as Dr. Marcet, some years before, attempted in vain to detect iron in the urine of persons whose digestive system was under the influence of that metal.

Missionary.

LETTER FROM REV. PLINY FISK.

From the Southern Intelligencer.

The following letter is from the Rev. Mr. Fisk, well known to many of our readers, both in this city and state, dated

*On the Nile in Upper Egypt, }
March 14, 1823. }*

I cannot, in one letter, tell you all that you would wish to know about my present situation; but I will tell you what little I can. I wish I could describe to you a scene which passed this morning, in Siont, a large town, and the capital of Upper Egypt. The scene was in a chamber, about 20 feet long, and 10 or 12 feet wide. Fancy yourself in that chamber. You see one door of rough boards, which opened into the flat roof of the house, and one window

p.63-4 missing and not
available from any other source.